

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application and stand subject to a restriction election requirement. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

According to the Office Action, the claims are directed to more than one species of the generic invention. The Examiner states that these species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The Examiner states that claims 1-6 are generic. Depending on the election, the Examiner states that claims 1-6 and the claims for the elected species will be examined.

The Examiner states that the species are as follows:

A. Claim 7. Wherein the stimulation is electric discharge. The Examiner refers to Fig. 5.

B. Claims 8 and 9. Wherein the stimulation is ultra-sonic waves. The Examiner refers to Fig. 6.

C. Claims 10-13. Wherein the stimulation is using an orifice plate, or porous plate, to stimulate the solution contained in a container by passing the solution through a circulation pipe. The Examiner refers to Fig. 7.

D. Claims 14-16. Wherein the stimulation is forcible internal circulation between the generator and the container, where the solution passes through a punching plate in the pipe, and which also includes recirculation. The Examiner refers to Figs. 8 and 9.

E. Claim 17. Wherein the stimulation is a radical chain reaction occurring at the liquid interface associated with ozone decomposition. The Examiner refers to Fig. 10.

The Examiner further states that the species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The common technical features between these species is essentially the subject matter of claim 1, where the collapse of the floated microbubbles having a diameter less than 50 μ m is accelerated with a

stimulation. This use of stimulation to collapse microbubbles is shown for example in U.S. Patent No. 6,200,486 to Chahine et al. ("Chahine"), in the collapse of microbubbles is accelerated with a solid surface which induces stimulation in the flow of the fluid (Chahine col. 9 lines 35-50). And although Chahine does not explicitly contemplate the specific size of the microbubbles, U.S. Patent No. 6,394,429 to Ganan-Calvo teaches bubbles between 0.1 microns and 100 microns are produced using high pressure jets (Ganan-Calvo see at least abstract).

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are directed to a unitary inventive concept, and examination on the merits of all claims is thus respectfully solicited.

However, pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.143 for a responsive reply, Applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, Species C, claims 10-13.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of


months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this document is being
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December 9, 2009

(Date of Transmission)

Respectfully submitted,



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